

The canyons have large streams bordered by *Populus monticola* and fan palms, *Erythea brandegeei*. The moist banks are draped with moss and ferns of several species.

Seven days (October 11-18) were spent in this interesting and beautiful sierra. Another trip by horse was also made to the west base of Santo Genoveva Peak east of Pescadero.

About 20,000 specimens of insects and 1,500 specimens of plants were secured on the expedition. The insects will supplement those collected on the Michelbacher-Ross Expedition of 1938, and some 12,000 specimens from Lower California previously in the Academy's collections. The botanical specimens are important in replacing the large collection of Lower California plants possessed by the Academy prior to its destruction by fire in 1906.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting, November 21, 1941, approved the applications of Mr. Rupert C. Barneby, Dr. Elmer H. Berryman, Mr. E. J. Campodonico, Dr. Lawrence R. Jacobus, Mr. Robert H. Jakob, Dr. Douglas M. Kelley, Mr. G. E. Mountford, and Dr. Earl L. Packard for MEMBERSHIP and Miss Wilda Simone for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after November 27, 1941, they will be considered elected.

WINTER CLOSING HOURS

BEGINNING December 1 and continuing through January, the Museum and the Steinhart Aquarium will close at 4:00 P.M., except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, when they will be open till 5:00 P.M. as usual.

MEETING OF STUDENT MEMBERS

ON FRIDAY EVENING, December 5, the Student Members of the Academy will meet in Room 214, Simson African Hall, at 8:00 o'clock. Dr. E. S. Ross will speak, and show Kodachrome pictures taken on the recent expedition to Lower California.

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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Scaife Lecture on December 3

THE REGULAR DECEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 245 Market Street, San Francisco, on Wednesday evening, December 3, 1941, at eight o'clock. The speaker of the evening, Mr. Paul K. Petzoldt, will take as his subject

FIVE MILES HIGH

MR. PETZOLDT, one of the world's great mountain climbers, will tell the story of the First American Karakoram Expedition's ascent of the second highest mountain in the world, K2 in the Himalayas. Colored motion pictures will take the audience from the fabled Vale of Kashmir across deep gorges, arid deserts and snowy mountain ranges on to the glacier-crested K2, deep in the Himalayas and exceeded in height only by Mt. Everest. The perilous climb of these young American alpinists 26,000 feet up the ice-coated sides of this unconquered peak was a thrilling test of human courage, endurance and skill; and the camera catches these appealing sidelights as well as the awe-inspiring grandeur of the towering Himalayas. Mr. Petzoldt's pictures are the only ones taken of this expedition. Many of them were taken at temperatures below zero at 26,000 feet above sea level, the highest point on the earth's surface ever reached by a camera.

The public is cordially invited. Come early to insure getting a seat.

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EL PICACHO PEAK IN THE SIERRA LAGUNA

ACADEMY EXPEDITION RETURNS FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA

DURING the period from September 19 to November 4, 1941, an expedition from the California Academy of Sciences visited the Cape San Lucas region of Lower California. Dr. E. S. Ross, Assistant Curator of Entomology, and Mr. G. E. Bohart, a graduate student of Entomology at the University of California, collected insect specimens. Miss Betty J. Hammerly of the Academy's Botany Department collected plant specimens and thus made possible identification of plant hosts of certain insects. Mrs. Berta Jongeneel of Berkeley and Mr. Morton Gleason, Jr., of Piedmont also accompanied the expedition.

Traveling in a specially equipped one-and-a-half ton truck the group made the 4,000-mile journey from San Francisco to the Cape and back with little difficulty. It is true that two tires were ruined negotiating the so-called highway and that the truck was stuck in the mud at one point for eighteen hours, requiring twenty Mexicans to extricate it. But these are just some of the ordinary pleasures of such expeditions.

This particular year and season saw the vegetation of the mountains from Santa Rosalia to the Cape at its prime. The shrubs and trees were in full leaf and the ground was often carpeted with grass and blossoming annuals. The red-flowered San Miguel vine and large, yellow-blossomed morning glory twining about the cactus and trees gave vivid color to a usually drab, colorless countryside. These favorable conditions, brought about by an unusually large amount of rain a few weeks previous, proved to be of very short duration, for on the return trip three weeks later scarcely a flower was seen. A special effort was made to collect Diptera and Hymenoptera amid this bloom. The collecting at night with lights proved to be generally poor; nevertheless a fine collection of moths was obtained.

One of the major objectives of the expedition was to visit the pine forest located in the Sierra Laguna of the Cape region. Accordingly the necessary riding and pack animals, as well as a guide and packers, were obtained at Todos Santos and from this point the party rode east into the sierra. Dry arroyos were soon replaced by clear, cascading mountain streams as the narrow, steep trail gained altitude. A definite zonation of flora was observed. The lowlands are characterized by the presence of *Jatropha*, *Mimosa* and *Lemaireocereus*, but at about 4,000 feet two species of oak become abundant and the slopes are open and grassy. With a still greater gain of altitude the scene is reminiscent of the Coast Range of California with an association of oaks, madrone, toyon and pine. At the summit east of El Picacho Peak (6,200 feet) is the flat area, 5,500 feet in elevation, known as La Laguna. This is the site of an old lake which is now a meadow surrounded by a park-like growth of oak and pine. This floral association is isolated by hundreds of miles of peninsula and the Gulf from similar growth elsewhere. A study of the insects and plants collected here should throw some light on the nature of its biotic affinities with other regions.

In contrast to this flat area the rest of the Sierra Laguna is very rugged and consists of needle-like peaks and deep canyons separated by high knife-edge ridges.